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by their aid. Failure on the part of nearly of all our states to provide efficient registration is little short of a scientific scandal. A worthy initiative has been taken. It remains for the scholarly public to become better acquainted with the work done by these enlightened secretaries of New England boards of health, and to seize the opportune moment to introduce registration and publication in the remaining states of the Union.

E. R. L. GOULD.

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*The American Historical Review.* Vol. I, No. 1. New York : Macmillan & Co., October, 1885. 8vo. pp. 208.

THE establishment of *The American Historical Review* marks an important advance in that rapid development in the study of history, which has been so striking a feature of our recent academic life. The fraternal co-operation in its management of teachers in our leading universities shows that it is a national rather than a local enterprise. As such it justly appeals for support to all who are interested in history. Hitherto the students of history in this country have had no periodical which would bear favorable comparison with the great European journals. The first number of the new quarterly is dignified and scholarly in character, and its contents will interest not only the professional student, but also that somewhat evasive personality, "the intelligent reader."

Professor Sloane, in his inaugural article, discusses the influence of democracy on historical writing. Some have urged that the striving after social equality, and, in fact, the very atmosphere of a democratic society would lead students to lose sight of relative values in history and set them wandering in a labyrinth of details. While acknowledging that there is danger of this, Professor Sloane argues that it is not a necessary result. His article is interesting and suggestive, but the great variety of topics touched upon has made it hard for the reader to follow his train of thought.

The field of history, according to Professor Sloane, is the life of the state. This view still has many adherents, but it is, I believe, steadily losing ground. History cannot be limited to a record or a study of the political activity of man. It investigates properly every phase of the development of man in his activity as a social being. It studies not merely the life of states, but the life of ideas—not merely

the political, but also the religious and economic conditions which have influenced the growth of human societies.

A large part of the confusion and discussion concerning the field of history arises from the fact that the essence of history is not merely what is studied, but *how* it is studied. It is not a certain class of phenomena studied in their succession, but a way of studying all phenomena of human life.

Professor Sloane cites the example of Thucydides in support of his position, remarking that this greatest of historians neglects to give a picture of Athenian culture. But Thucydides expressly tells us that he was writing a history of the war between Athens and Sparta. He was not writing a general history of Athens.

The other articles and the original documents, for the most part, deal with our earlier history. Professor Tyler's paper on "The Loyalists of the Revolution" is one of those highly successful presentations of a lost cause, which revive it in all its early strength and stripped of the obloquy of defeat, and inspire the readers with misgivings as to whether he himself might not have been a Tory had he lived then.

Mr. Henry Adams contributes a series of documents throwing light on the strange picaresque career of "Count Edward de Crillon."

The paper of Professor Turner is one of a series on "Western State-making During the Revolution." It is a genuine contribution to our knowledge of the origin of one of the most original features of our constitution.

Of the twenty-seven books reviewed thirteen are American, ten English, three French, and one German. Later numbers, no doubt, will give somewhat greater space to continental publications. The department of Notes and News is a welcome feature of the Review, and cannot fail to be of great service to a large class of its patrons.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

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*History of the Union Pacific Railway.* By HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1895. 8vo  
pp. 129.

TWO YEARS ago we were given a history of the Union Pacific which treated the subject as a study in politics. The present volume—the second in the series of *Economic Studies* of The University of Chicago—is an excellent complement of the work done by Mr. Davis.